

## ATTACHMENT 1 MODIFIED VIA AMENDMENT #002

**Missouri Department of Corrections*****Serious and Violent Offender Re-Entry Initiative (SVORI)***

## PARAGRAPH MODIFIED VIA AMENDMENT #002

In 2003, the Missouri Department of Corrections implemented the Serious and Violent Offender Re-Entry Initiative (SVORI), known in Missouri as Project Connect. This program is designed to assist offenders in the successful reintegration back into the community. This is accomplished by providing a strong support system that consists of a variety of community members and organizations working together with the Department of Corrections. It is estimated that Project Connect will serve over two hundred offenders, both male and female, per year returning to the Kansas City, St. Louis City and St. Louis County areas. In order to participate in Project Connect, male and female participants must meet the following criteria:

- be between the ages of 17 and 35;
- have a poor criminal history;
- have a poor work history; and
- lack of vocational and educational skills.

Project Connect is staffed by a Re-Entry Manager and three full-time Re-Entry Specialist's. Currently, there are also two part-time Re-Entry Mentors on staff with the Department of Corrections (one in the Kansas City area and one in the St. Louis area). The Re-Entry Specialist's primary responsibilities are to develop individual re-entry plans for each offender, ensuring that needed services are available to the offender and identifying vital community resources that are needed. The Re-Entry Specialists work closely with a team of Re-Entry Mentors who assist those offenders being returned to the community. The Re-Entry Mentors dedicate time to each offender and their families in an effort to provide guidance and support during their supervision period. The Re-Entry Mentors assist the offender through day-to-day crisis and helps them to meet their obligations while on supervision.

Project Connect participants enter the first of the programs three phases approximately 12 months prior to their release from the institution. Before entering the program, the Re-Entry Specialist reviews the offender's information, at approximately 15 months prior to release; to ensure they are appropriate for the program. A description of each phase is as follows:

**Phase I**

Phase I takes place within the institution. The Re-Entry Specialist selects the offender and an assessment, named the Transition Accountability Plan (TAP), is completed with the institutional team and the offender to determine the offender's basic needs such as medical, food, shelter, and clothing. Other needs assessed during this time include education, employment, support, mental health, substance abuse, and legal issues. During the initial phase, the offender works with an Institutional Case Management Team consisting of the Re-Entry Specialist, Institutional Parole Officer, Caseworker, and/or Functional Unit Manager, as well as staff from substance abuse, education, medical, psychology, classification, vocational education, and religious programming. These teams are developed in conjunction with the offender's needs and help the offender create a plan to follow while in the institution. These plans include all areas of identified assets and needs for the offender, and serve as an outline of agreed upon programming to be completed by the offender. With the input of the offender, these teams are able to determine what resources will be needed for a successful re-entry, both in the institution and in the community. Links to community resources are made as a result of these assessments and appointments are scheduled prior to the offender's release from the institution.

**Phase II**

Phase II is focused on supporting offenders during the transition process from the prison to the community. Before the offender is released from the institution, the Field Parole Officer meets with the offender, reviews their Transition Accountability Plan (TAP) and informs the offender of what is expected of them when they are released. The Field Parole Officer then meets with the Institutional Case Management Team and finds out what the offender has been working on while incarcerated, what they have completed, and what goals they are still trying to accomplish. The communication between the field and the institution is a key component to the success of transition. The Field Parole Officer and the Re-Entry Specialist take the information gathered back to the community partners and they begin to prepare for the offender's release.

Phase II can last up to 12 months after the offender's release from the institution. During this time period, the offender meets with the Re-Entry Transition Team, which consists of the Field Parole Officer, the Re-Entry Specialist, the Re-Entry Mentor, and members of the community, (Community Partners). The Re-Entry Transition Team helps the offender to stay on track and find solutions to problems they may face. This team works together to help the offender create a viable schedule, continue to be linked with community resources, act as a sounding board for the offender, and provide moral support as well as guidance to them. This team meets with the offender on a regular basis and continues to address any issues that may arise. If the offender incurs a violation during the twelve-month period, the team is consulted and they help to find possible solutions to the problem. The team assists in making the recommendation to the Parole Board and, in many cases, are able to find community based solutions to the violations.

The Re-Entry Transition Team continues to monitor and assess the offender during this phase. How often the team meets with the offender depends on the offender's needs. They see them at least once a month, but are available more often if it is believed there is a need for more frequent meetings. At approximately six months into the program, the team meets and begins to assess for a possible graduation date from Project Connect. The offender continues to be a part of this process and provides input to the team. The assessment is reliant upon the behavior of the offender, how much they have accomplished since their release, what goals they have left to complete, in addition to a review of the overall growth of the offender during that time period. Several tools are used to assist in this process including a Need Scale, Risk Scale, and two substance abuse evaluation tools available to the Department of Corrections. This review will begin at the six-month period and continues until the time at which the offender has completed the program.

**Phase III**

Phase III, the sustaining phase, begins at the time the offender is identified as ready to graduate from Project Connect. The team makes sure that there will be continued support from the community and that the basic needs of the offender regarding areas such as mental health and substance abuse are still being met. This phase encourages the offender to maintain contact with the community resources they have been set up with and to continue to seek help as needed. The goal of this phase is to help the offender maintain what they have earned and accomplished while in Project Connect. Although the offender is no longer in the program, they will still have the resources available to them and can call on their team members for assistance. Once the offender has demonstrated stability in the community, they graduate from Project Connect and are transferred to regular field supervision for the remainder of their sentence.

**Goals and Objectives**

When designing this initiative, the goals and objectives consisted of the prevention of re-offending and re-victimization, enhancing public safety, re-deploying and leveraging existing community resources, fostering linkages and accessing current services. In addition, ensuring program sustainability by realizing the key to a successful and sustained initiative is the decision maker organization and commitment from all areas to the initiative. The teams formed in this initiative are dedicated to providing the leadership necessary for offenders, their families and the communities to benefit from this grant.

**Kansas City:**

In Kansas City, Project Connects' Executive Board serves as an oversight board to address issues related to local resources, support and guidance for community panels and providing input to the Department of Corrections as related to offender supervision. The Board members also provides the role of the Community Partners.

**Community Partners**

Jackson County Victim Services  
Weed & Seed  
Department of Corrections (Re-Entry Manager, Re-Entry Specialists)  
Kids Safe  
Probation and Parole, KC (Administrators, Officers)  
KC Police Dept. (Central Patrol, Metro Patrol, East Patrol, South Patrol, and Headquarters)  
Ivanhoe Neighborhood Association  
Central Patrol Community Person  
Jackson County Courts  
Jackson County Prosecutor's Office  
Full Employment Council  
Truman Medical Center – Behav. Health Unit  
Alt-Care/Rediscover  
Salvation Army  
Crittenton  
Fed. Rep. for Human Social Service  
Division of Youth Services  
Friendship Missionary Bapt. Church

**Panel Members:**

Community:  
**Metro Patrol**  
Park University  
Crittenton  
Student at UMKC  
DeVry Institute  
Division of Youth Services  
Southtown Planning Center  
Southtown Planning Center  
KC Police Dept. – Metro Patrol  
KC Police Dept. – Metro Patrol

**Central Patrol**  
Central Patrol Community Person

Truman Medical Center – Behav. Health Unit  
Devry Institute  
Ivanhoe Neighborhood Assoc.  
KC Police Dept. – Central Patrol  
KC Police Dept. – Central Patrol  
Ivanhoe Neighborhood Assoc.  
KC Police Dept. – Central Patrol  
Central Patrol Community Person  
Center City Neighborhood Assoc.

**South Patrol**

Kidsafe  
DeVry Institute  
Crittenton  
South Patrol Community Person  
South Patrol Community Person  
KC Police Dept. – South Patrol  
KC Police Dept. – South Patrol  
KC Police Dept. – South Patrol

**East Patrol**

Northeast Community Center  
DSBC Business Consulting Comp.  
DeVry Institute  
KC Police Dept. – East Patrol  
KC Police Dept. – East Patrol  
Northeast News  
Santa Fe Neighborhood Person  
Assoc. Pastor – Friendship Baptist

Panel Members are charged with the following duties:

- Meet with offenders on their community panels monthly;
- Provide support for the offender to help with issues/problems they may be experiencing;
- Offer guidance when needed;
- Encourage the offender;
- Provide positive feedback when the offender is performing positively in the community;
- Listen to the offender's problems and help them sort out/prioritize issues in their lives; and
- Offer resources in the community to assist the offender in society.

Anyone can become a panelist if they are willing to commit to the time once a month. Possible panel members must be off of supervision for at least one year, have no outstanding warrants, no history of sex offenses, and live or work in the Kansas City area. If you are interested in becoming a panel member, please contact Susie Edwards or Kristie Slugantz, Re-Entry Specialists at (816) 889-2271 between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. CST.

**St. Louis:**

**Community Partners:**

MERS  
Redevelopment Opportunities for Women

Cooper Management, Training & Consulting  
St. Louis County Prosecuting Attorney's Office  
St. Louis City Police Department  
New Beginnings  
US Department of Housing & Urban Development  
Parents as Teachers National Center  
Division of Vocational Rehabilitation  
Manasseh Ministries  
DART  
Connections to Success  
Department of St. Louis County Justice Services  
Options for Justice  
Employment Connection  
Center for Women in Transition  
Salvation Army C-Star  
YWCS  
Criminal Justice Ministry Society of St. Vincent  
Mayor's Office – St. Louis City  
Circuit Attorney's Office  
Legal Advocates for Abused Women  
Project COPE  
Hopewell Mental Health Center  
Regeneration Courage to Change  
Department of Mental Health  
New Beginnings  
WERDCC  
Lutheran Ministries Re-Entry Program  
Central Baptist Church  
St. Louis University  
Regional Response Coalition  
Let's Start  
Women Overcoming Maladaptive Behavior  
Parole Officer

In St. Louis, the Coordinating Council Coordinating Council members (also filling role of Community Partners) are charged with the following duties.

- Create Community Support Networks for offenders to utilize upon release,
- Discuss current issues concerning offender release, and
- Bring needed resources to the table for discussion.

The benefits to the Coordinating Council members are numerous. For the first time, many different agencies are working together to find a “fit” for offenders in the St. Louis area. The Council is able to learn about each other's programs and find out what is actually available in the area. They have the opportunity to work with the Department of Corrections and stay connected to the changes taking place in the Department. They have a voice in the offender's plan before they are released from the institution. Their voice is valued when dealing with the offenders before they are released from the institution. The major asset is that they are learning from each other and the department is learning from them. They are able to offer input into the way the Department of Corrections does business and their input is valued.

Members of the Coordinating Council selected for the Community Support Network, are involved in the response to offender violations. The community members have better access to

information concerning the offenders prior to their release. This helps to find appropriate resources for the offenders.

Community Support Networks are charged with the following duties:

- Meet with offenders on their Community Support Network on a monthly basis;
- Provide support for the offender to help with issues/problems they may be experiencing;
- Offer guidance when needed;
- Encourage the offender;
- Provide positive feedback when the offender is performing positively in the community,
- Listen to offender's problems and help them sort out/prioritize issues in their lives, and
- Offer resources in the community to assist the offender in society.

Anyone can become a Coordinating Council member. Possible Coordinating Council members must be off of supervision for at least one year, have no outstanding warrants, no history of sex offenses, and live or work in the St. Louis area.